

Finance, Legislation and Planning (FL&P) Committee
August 7, 2009
Marriott Richmond West
9:00 AM

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Others:
Randy Abernathy		Scott Winston	Carol Lee Strickler
Michael Player		Beth Singer	Jason Campbell
Kent Weber		Marian Hunter	Jennie Collins
Rob Logan			Gary Samuels
Bruce Edwards			
Byron Andrews			
Ed Rhodes			
Gary Dalton			
Mike Harmon			
Robin Foster, MD			
Art Lipscomb			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Opening	Randy Abernathy, Chair opened the meeting. The minutes from the May 15, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved.	Motion to approve minutes from May 15, 2009 meeting made by Gary Dalton. 2nd by Byron Andrews. Minutes approved unanimously.
OEMS Update	<p>Scott Winston, Asst. Director, OEMS referred the members of the committee to review the OEMS quarterly report to the EMS Advisory Board posted on the OEMS Web site at http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/AdvisoryBoard/ABQuarterlyReports.htm</p> <p>Mr. Winston advised the committee that the Governor will be meeting with the money committees of the Virginia General Assembly on August 19. It is anticipated that there will be at least an \$800M to \$1.3B budget cut to offset the current deficit due to lower than anticipated revenue projections. OEMS has prepared a 5%, 10% and 15% reduced budget and submitted their recommendations for consideration to the VDH Budget Director and senior</p>	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>leadership. It is anticipated funding to EMS will be reduced by approximately 15%.</p> <p>Members of the committee expressed concerns about budget cuts to EMS.</p>	
Review Composition of FL&P Committee	<p>Randy Abernathy discussed the need to review the composition of the committee due to recent appointments and re-appointments by the Governor to the state EMS Advisory Board. Randy's term on the Board representing VAGEMSA has expired and a replacement has been named by the Governor. In addition, Randy can no longer serve as chair of the committee and a new chairperson of the committee will have to be elected by the state EMS Advisory Board.</p> <p>In the interim, the committee discussed the need to elect a Vice-Chair for the committee. Mr. Gary Dalton was recommended by the committee to serve as Vice-Chair of the committee.</p> <p>Scott Winston reviewed the history of the FL&P committee. The Committee was formed in November 2003 to address the need for an on-going focus on planning and to create a home for the State EMS Plan Ad hoc committee, originally chaired by Mr. Michael Player. The scope of the Committee was subsequently expanded to include state EMS planning activities; review of regional, state and federal planning activities related to EMS; review of EMS System funding issues, and review of existing and proposed legislation governing EMS.</p> <p>The organizational composition and make-up of the committee has evolved over time. A number of individuals working on the state EMS planning ad hoc committee continued to attend FL&P Committee meetings once they began and were subsequently added as members to the committee. In addition, initially, the regional EMS Councils had two seats on the committee and in February 2006 it was decided the state EMS Medical Director should serve as an ex-officio member of this committee.</p> <p>The original recommendation for composition of the committee included representation from the following organizations and/or disciplines:</p>	<p>Motion to elect Mr. Gary Dalton as Vice Chair of the FL&P Committee made by Bruce Edwards. Second by Ed Rhodes. Unanimously approved by the committee.</p>

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>Committee Chair, current EMS Advisory Board Member; VAVRS, VAGEMSA, FARC, Regional EMS Council Exec. Director's Group, EMSC, VFCA, Trauma System Oversight and Management Committee representing hospitals, VPFF, local government (VACO and/or VML) and State EMS Medical Director. At the present time there are three (3) at-large members on the committee.</p> <p>The committee did not make any recommendations or decisions concerning the composition of the committee. The committee suggested the issue should be re-addressed following the election of a chairperson for the committee.</p>	
State EMS Strategic Plan	<p>Mr. Abernathy reported he has received State EMS Plan work assignments from all relevant committees of the state EMS Advisory Board. The Regulation and Policy committee met yesterday and will submit their written report. The committee members received copies of the work assignments from each committee.</p> <p>The initial committee assignments were due no later than July 31, 2009. The FL&P committee will assemble each committee's core initiatives and identify common items prior to the next phase of the state planning process. In addition, the committee needs to evaluate the status of current strategic initiatives in the state EMS Plan.</p> <p>Mr. Abernathy led a discussion of committee members to identify a vision for the FL&P committee. In addition, the committee identified the mission of the committee and why the committee exists.</p> <p>The committee discussed the similar and parallel roles and responsibilities of the Regulation and Policy committee and FL&P. Mr. Rhodes stated the regulatory process is very time consuming and the Reg. & Policy committee focuses on legislation that affects the regulatory process.</p> <p>It was suggested that perhaps R&P committee and FL&P committee should meet together prior, during or after the General Assembly session to review legislation.</p>	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>A committee member stated the state EMS Plan should be in concert with EMS related legislation that is adopted by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor.</p> <p>Rob Logan stated the original purpose of FL&P was to serve as an overarching, coordinating committee.</p> <p>Michael Player stated the committee is designed to be reflexive and has the ability to mobilize the entire EMS system.</p> <p>The committee was asked if the current composition of the committee is appropriate and whether it represents the interests of EMS.</p> <p>Rob Logan stated the committee should have expertise from the various elements of the EMS system as well as expertise in the three areas (finance, legislation and planning) the committee is responsible for.</p> <p>Mr. Abernathy stated he will be leaving the committee because his term on the state EMS Advisory Board has expired. It will be the responsibility of the new chair of the committee to look at its composition. The Chair of the committee is responsible for the make-up of the committee, making sure the representation is balanced.</p> <p>Mr. Edwards stated it is his intention to step off of the FL&P committee as of the end of this meeting due to his new responsibilities as EMS representative on the Board of Health.</p> <p>The committee revisited the mission statement of the committee as it appears in the by-laws of the state EMS Advisory Board. The current mission statement reads:</p> <p><i>The EMS System Finance, Legislation and Planning Committee will coordinate state EMS planning activities, review regional, state and federal</i></p>	<p>Elect new Chair for FL&P Committee. Chair needs to review the composition of the committee to make sure there is balanced representation and expertise in the areas of finance, planning and legislation.</p>

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p><i>EMS plans, review EMS system funding and review and recommend legislation governing EMS. The committee shall develop system priorities and evaluate their effectiveness.</i></p> <p>Following a discussion, the committee agreed the mission statement accurately reflects the purpose of the committee. In order to emphasize the overarching planning and coordination function to the committee, the committee adopted several modifications to the mission state.</p>	<p>A motion was made and seconded to approve a new mission statement for the committee.</p> <p><i>The EMS System Finance, Legislation and Planning Committee will advise and coordinate the efforts of the state EMS Advisory Board and its various standing and ad-hoc committees as they relate to finance, legislation and planning in order to best serve the overall needs of the EMS system in VA.</i></p>
EMS Needs Assessment	<p>Rob Logan reported on the progress of the EMS Needs Assessment ad-hoc workgroup. The workgroup met by teleconference on Wednesday, July 22 to discuss strategies and initial planning for conducting a statewide EMS needs assessment. Minutes from July 22 meeting were distributed to committee members.</p> <p>It was reported the first EMS needs assessment will be short and focus on the needs of Virginia's EMS agencies. The workgroup has a goal of achieving a 95% return rate utilizing a survey instrument and a narrative section developed from targeted interviews with appropriate EMS leaders on the economic impact to the coordination elements of Virginia's EMS system, including OEMS, and the</p>	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>regional EMS councils.</p> <p>In order to achieve a high response rate the committee discussed the need to cultivate partnerships (VAVRS, VAGEMSA, etc.), place conditions on funding awards for RSAF grants and Return to Locality (RTL), and advise EMS Program Reps during biennial licensure inspections to encourage EMS agencies to complete and return surveys.</p> <p>The workgroup discussed hiring an outside expert to develop a survey instrument or one of the participating entities (VAVRS, VAGEMSA, etc.) will be asked to apply for a RSAF grant to pay for outside assistance.</p> <p>Art Lipscomb asked why not use the Department of Fire Programs (DFP) annual needs assessment. Although the DFP annual needs assessment provides some valuable information, a more timely and targeted EMS assessment is needed.</p> <p>Mr. Abernathy requested Rob Logan, Regional EMS Council representative to speak with his peers regarding adding language to the regional council contracts with the state to address participating in the EMS needs assessment.</p> <p>The timeline for completion of this initial assessment is the end of June 2010.</p>	<p>Scott Winston agreed to speak with Mr. Tim Perkins, state EMS Planner about adding language to the regional EMS Council contracts related to the EMS Needs Assessment.</p>
<p>2010 EMS Legislation</p>	<p>The committee received information from Ed Rhodes and Art Lipscomb about potential legislative issues for the 2010 session of the General Assembly. Legislative issues likely to come up include employee contributions into retirement plans, expansion of workers compensation to include H1N1 virus, move of OEMS to Public Safety Secretariat, recovery of reasonable expenses incurred by localities for responding law enforcement, fire-fighting, rescue and emergency medical services to DUI and related incidents, expansion of laws related to capital murder convictions to include firefighters and EMS personnel, recognition of Public Safety Communications Officers as First Responders for the purpose of enhanced retirement benefits, and legislation to follow-up on the findings of a study looking at violence in the Emergency Department setting.</p>	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>The committee learned of a presentation made to the Regulation and Compliance committee on Thursday, August 6 by Ms. Melissa Doak, former EMS Program Representative Supervisor. The presentation focused on items for potential change in Code effecting Virginia EMS. Ms. Doak conducted a comprehensive search of the Code and identified a number of sections containing inconsistent terms and definitions related to EMS. These sections need to be reviewed more closely to determine the degree of controversy that would be created by introducing bills to clean up the language in these Code sections.</p> <p>A request was made to have Ms. Doak appear at the next FL&P Committee to present the same report and information she provided to the Regulation and Compliance committee.</p>	<p>Scott Winston agreed to invite Ms. Doak to the next FL&P committee meeting to deliver her presentation on items of interest to Virginia EMS and items for potential change affecting Virginia EMS.</p>
Old Business	There was no old business.	
New Business	It was reported that the Public Safety Memorial Commission is considering design proposals from six finalists for the Public Safety Memorial. A groundbreaking ceremony is planned for the Darden Garden site across from the General Assembly Building prior to January 2010.	
2009 Meeting Dates	The next FL&P Committee will be held at a date to be determined (TBD) in September to coincide with the annual Virginia Fire Services Council Legislative Summit.	
Adjournment	The Committee adjourned at 11:15 AM.	